

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 ORM-01 SR-02 AID-05

VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSO-00

NSCE-00 /090 W

----- 121219

P R 011100Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3578

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2942

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, CVIS, UNHCR, VS, CB, LA

SUBJECT: POSSIBILITY OF UNHCR ASSISTANCE TO GVN EMBASSY PERSONNEL
IN VIENTIANE

REFS: A) STATE 101379 (NOTAL)

B) VIENTIANE 2924 (NOTAL)

1. FROM PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH UNHCR REP HERE IT IS
CLEAR THAT UNHCR HAS NOT YET LOOKED AT PROBLEMS OF INDIVIDUAL
VIETNAMESE (OR CAMBODIAN) OFFICIALS OR PRIVATE CITIZENS IN
THIRD COUNTRIES AND AT PRESENT HAS NEITHER AUTHORITY NOR
MEANS TO ASSIST OR PROTECT SUCH PERSONS. ALL UNHCR
EFFORTS IN RECENT WEEKS HAVE BEEN CONCENTRATED ON
EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAMS FOR SOUTH VIET-NAM, AND UNHCR
IS NOT ENGAGED IN TRANSPORTING OR FINDING PERMANENT REFUGE
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FOR VIETNAMESE OR CAMBODIANS.

2. UNHCR OFFICE HERE SO FAR HAS ONLY GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIGH COMMISSIONER, ISSUED IN CONNECTION WITH USG EVACUATION EFFORTS FOR VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIANS, WHICH STATE THAT UNHCR (A) IS PREPARED TO ASSIST PERSONS WHO FIND THEMSELVES "OUTSIDE THEIR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN OR TRADITIONAL RESIDENCE"; (B) RESPONDS PARTICULARLY TO REQUESTS FROM GOVERNMENTS OF COUNTRIES IN WHICH SUCH PERSONS FIND THEMSELVES; AND (C) TREATS SUCH PERSONS ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. UNHCR POLICY IS TO ENCOURAGE (A) VOLUNTARY REPatriation; (B) "INTEGRATION IN COUNTRY OF FIRST ASYLUM"; OR (C) RESETTLEMENT OF "INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE OF CONCERN TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER."

3. UNHCR OFFICE HAS HAD A HANDFUL OF INQUIRIES FROM NON-OFFICIAL VIETNAMESE HERE BUT NONE FROM GVN EMBASSY PERSONNEL OR FROM CAMBODIANS OF ANY CATEGORY. UNHCR OFFICE WILL, HOWEVER, SEEK GUIDANCE FROM GENEVA HEADQUARTERS AND ADVISE US. (OUR DISCUSSIONS COVERED NOT ONLY VIETNAMESE EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND OTHERS WHO MIGHT CLAIM IMMINENT DANGER BUT ALSO LONGER-RANGE QUESTION OF VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY IN LAOS, LARGE MAJORITY OF WHOM HOLD GVN TRAVEL DOCUMENTS,)

4. A PRELIMINARY OBSERVATION IS THAT UNHCR WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO ASSIST/PROTECT VIETNAMESE NATIONALS WERE IT REQUESTED TO DO SO BY PGNU. ALTHOUGH PGNU HAS BEEN HAPPY TO RELY ON UNHCR FOR FINANCING OF RECENT REFUGEE--RESETTLEMENT OPERATIONS WITH LAOS, WE DOUBT THAT PGNU WOULD REQUEST UNHCR ASSISTANCE FOR VIETNAMESE. THIS ISSUE WOULD INVOLVE A DIRECT CONFRONTATION BETWEEN TWO SIDES OF COLAITION ON AN ISSUE IN WHICH VIENTIANE SIDE HAS NOW LIMITED INTEREST BUT PL MAINTAIN STRONG POSITION.
CHAPMAN

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